

REMARKS


This Response is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed December 2, 2004. Claims 1 to 61 are currently pending and at issue in this application. A check in the amount of \$450.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the Extension of Time. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment or to credit any over payment.

As an initial matter, applicants would like to point out that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) previously submitted (copy enclosed) was signed by the Examiner, but the citations were not individually initialed. Applicants respectfully request the IDS previously submitted be considered and initialed.

The Office Action rejected each of the currently pending claims based on Glezerman (U.S. Publication 2003/0207237) and/or Whitfield (U.S. Publication 2002/0002491). Glezerman was filed on April 3, 2001. Whitfield was filed on April 17, 2001. As demonstrated by the attached declaration under rule 131, the inventors conceived of the invention as currently claimed prior to April 3, 2001 and worked diligently to reduce it to practice from at least that date until this patent application was filed on June 5, 2001.

Because Glezerman and Whitfield are not prior art, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 to 61 are each patentably distinguished over the prior art. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance, and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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